

345 North 24th Street
Lebanon, PA 17046

April 13, 1998

Office of the Secretary (1800)
Room 222
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir:

This letter addresses comments to proposed rule-making, involving Low Power Broadcasting, items RM9242 and 9208.

As a commercial radio broadcaster for the past 25 years, I have seen the air waves disintegrate from what has been "operating in the public domain" to a free-spirited system, not serving the public and concerned mainly with how large a portfolio of stations can be obtained and how great a bank account can be achieved.

With FCC deregulation several years ago, the ownership issue has become one of David versus Goliath. I have no problem with industries, such as banking, gobbling up smaller financial institutions and creating mega-banks. However, radio broadcasting is different, as the AM and FM airwaves are "owned" by the general public. As a result only those with huge dollars to invest may start or buy a new broadcast station and the little guy, well, his or her hopes of ownership and truly serving the public are dashed.

As a result, I support low power microbroadcasting in the strongest words. I see this type of (regulated) broadcasting as a method to return at least radio back to the public in terms of ownership and to begin again, to serve the public as a public trustee. Many microbroadcasters currently on the air (admittedly some are illegal) do indeed offer religious, minority and otherwise programming that other licensed, mega-companies do not and will not offer because such programming may not be a large enough revenue producer.

I believe low power broadcasting should contain the following regulations:

1. AM frequencies be limited to the expanded AM band of 1610 to 1710 khz.
2. Between one and three non-interfering frequencies assigned to each community regardless of any frequency assignment in that area.
3. Power would be limited to one (1) watt or less.

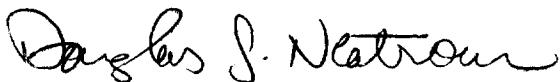
- 4. All transmission equipment must be FCC type accepted/approved.**
- 5. All low power stations apply for such frequencies paying a small processing-registration fee. Approval will be based on a first come first served basis and non-interference with any existing station.**
- 6. All low power stations must register each year with the FCC to advise if they are on the air and of their current mailing address.**
- 7. Low power stations should not be subjected to EAS and other monitoring equipment regulations, due to the high cost of such equipment.**

I applaud the Commission's actions in at least finally considering getting low power broadcasting out of the so called "gray area" and possibly into a viable, legal, service to the true local community member of the media.

I will be watching the progression of this rule making and hope for its speedy adoption.

Please contact me if you have any questions and desire further input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas J. Neatrour". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Douglas J. Neatrour